

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants cancel claim 6 by way of this Amendment.

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 895 141.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 895 141 in view of Fukuchi et al. (5,645,901).

Claims 1, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu et al. (5,493,430) in view of EP 0 895 141.

Analysis

Claims 1 and 2 are the only claims in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to these independent claims.

Claim 1 is directed to an LCD device which has a liquid-crystal panel that includes a back side substrate constituted by a colored resin substrate having an electrode, a visual side transparent substrate having a transparent electrode, and a reflection type liquid-crystal layer between the visual side substrate and the back side substrate.

Lu is also directed to a liquid crystal display but does not disclose a colored resin substrate.

Although the Examiner argues that Tanaka provides the requisite motivation for one to have modified Lu to have the colored resin substrate disclosed in EP '141, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation for one to have substituted the colored resin layer

of EP '141 in Lu because EP '141 is specifically directed to a watch rather than the liquid crystal displays discussed in Lu. Thus, EP '141 is non-analogous to the art of Lu.

Moreover, even though it may be desirable to make a liquid crystal display thin, there is no teaching or suggestion that substituting the painted layer with the colored resin would accomplish this objective. There is no suggestion of a problem with thickness in Lu and thus, there is no reason one would have thought to make the device in Lu thinner unless afforded the benefit of hindsight of the present application.

In view of the forgoing, claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2 includes an additional transparent substrate with an electrode so that the colored resin substrate forms part of the back side substrate.

EP '141 is directed to a watch, and thus, does not include these features. This reference discloses a colored substrate serving as a clock face of a watch. Moreover, one would not have been motivated to modify EP '141 to have these features, and likewise, one would not have been motivated to modify Lu to have the features of EP '141 for the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1. Namely, there is not motivation for substituting the paint in Lu with a colored resin.

Lu discloses a colored layer separately disposed on the substrate. Thus, it needs an additional step to form the layer on the substrate at the manufacturing process and further, it needs to adopt material with high optical density (absorption power per unit).

In contrast, according to the present invention, the substrate itself is colored so the colored part is increased in thickness to thereby obtain deep coloring.

In view of the foregoing, claim 2 is patentable.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/782,201

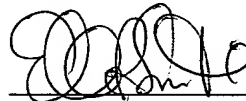
The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 2, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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